



The BAYONET



Vol. 2018, No 2

Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc. Newsletter

Summer 2018

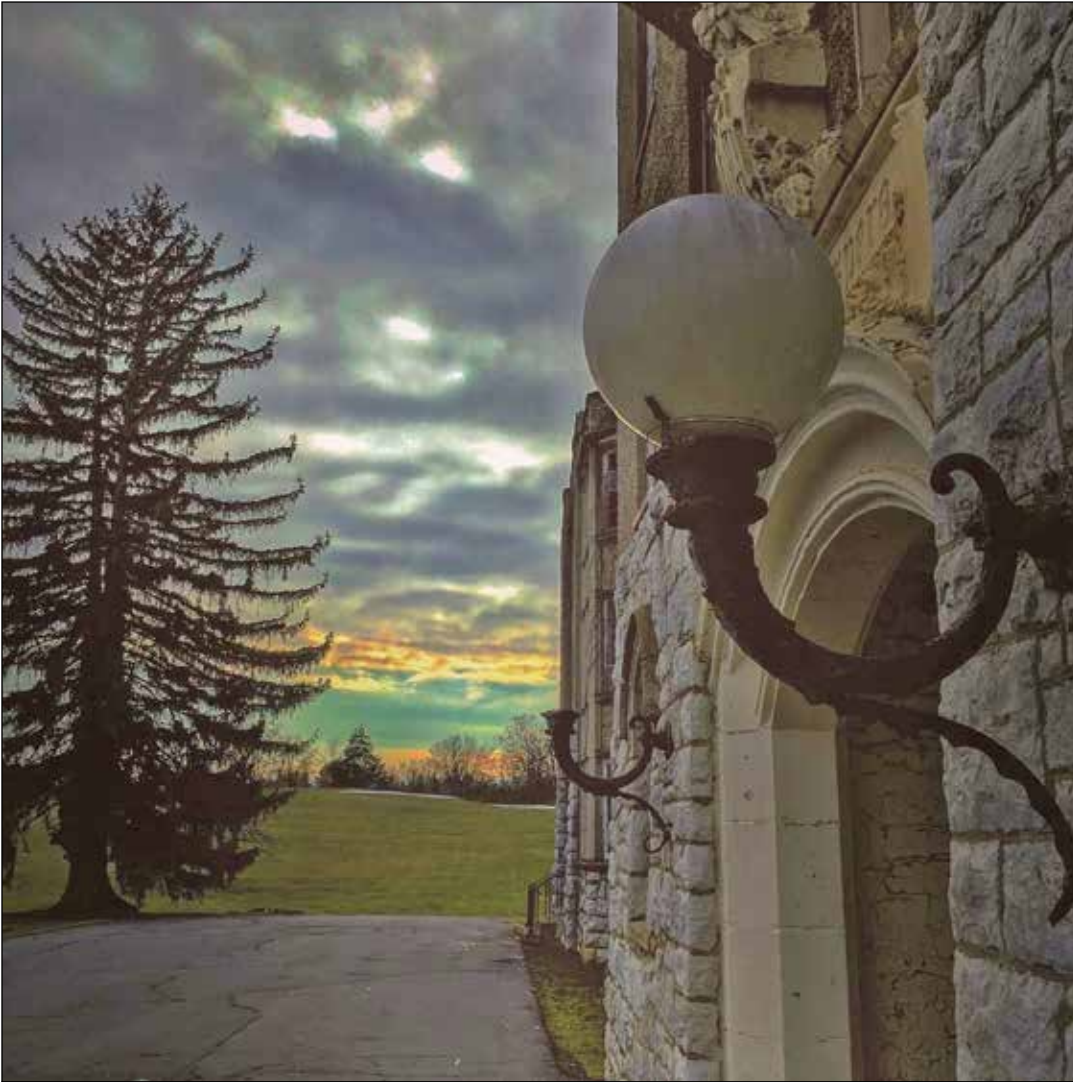


Photo by Mic Whitesell, Staunton, VA

My newest friend, **Jimmy Rochelle**, '67, inspires my words today. It's something he shared with me at Reunion 2018—something profound that I had never thought of or realized.

What do we all have in common as alumni of Augusta Military Academy? It seems like an easy answer: we all attended AMA. But upon reflection, it is not that simple. Some of us attended 9 or more years, some only one year, many two or three years. Some of us graduated with rank, either NCOs or Officers—many as privates. Many went on to be corporate executives, professional people, while others went into the trades, working in shipyards or the like.

What Jimmy pointed out to me and just blew me away was the commonality we had in our first year at AMA. We all went through the same processes and traditions. We all left home and AMA became our home. We all got that first shocking haircut. We all went through the uniform line getting our new threads. We all learned how to take the abusive screams of upperclassmen. We all learned how to get there on time, where ever 'there' was.

Ah, that first year. It changed us forever. It bonded us together forever.

~ bj d'Orsay, editor

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Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

Dear AMA Brothers and Friends,

I want to thank everyone who was in attendance at Reunion 2018 as well as the folks that helped put together the operation. Special thanks to **Stride Coleman** for coming in a week early to help set up as well as **ISG Don Studer**. Other folks that contributed a lot of time were **Brian and Sue Hart, Rick Smail, Frank Williamson, Ed Rogerville, Brett Thompson, Victor Gomez, and George Reaves**. I also want to mention **Crysta Stephenson**, as without her it would be the ultimate challenge to have a reunion. There is a more complete list of "Thank You's" on page 8.

Next year we will return to the Holiday Inn for Reunion 2019. We were considering the Stonewall Jackson Hotel but unfortunately the only weekend available is Easter. If we move to the Stonewall Jackson, there will be a discussion at the General Membership meeting next year and the decision will be made by our Alumni.

I want to congratulate Ed Rogerville on his selection to Chair the AMA Foundation as well as the new board members and officers. The organization has several new people with new ideas and I believe we will see some major improvements within the next year or two. With the passing of our brother and great friend **Ben Zinkhan** there is a greater demand for volunteer docents at our museum. We need people to sign up weekends. If you cannot do a weekend, Thursday and Friday work just as well.

As all of you know money continues to be an issue. **Blaine Clarke** our former Foundation Chair established the **300 Club**. This is designed to collect \$42.00 a month for 12 months for five years by credit card. Our goal is to get 300

members, which will fully fund the museum operation. I talked about this at our annual meeting for a few minutes. Unfortunately, I did not get to finish my pitch on this subject. At this point we have less than 50 members. The bottom line is if you are not able to contribute \$42.00 for twelve months we would gladly take \$25.00 or for that matter \$10.00 a month. This program has helped our cash flow situation since it is spread out over the year giving us breathing room in the summer months. Please keep in mind the 300 Club and our annual fund drive are critical for our museum to efficiently operate. Last comment about money. I believe 2018 will be the third year that we did not have to take funds out of Raymond James. So please if you are not involved please get involved.

In August we will be looking for volunteers for a cookout for the Virginia Military Institute road march from Lexington to New Market. This will most likely take place the last weekend in August. The exact date will be announced by VMI in July and it will be placed in our July newsletter along with the menu for the cookout.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you again that came to Reunion 2018. You are the folks that make it a success. You are the folks that sustain the museum.

Thank you for what you do, and God bless you all.

Respectfully,

Steve Trent, '70
President, AMA Alumni Association

Many thanks go out to Victor Gomez, Ruth Rosenthal, and Frank Williamson for taking many photos and videos. Some appear in print here and most or all appear in our galleries website:

<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018>

The site contains thousands of photos and videos taken of Reunions and other events over the last 20 years as well as a growing collection of high resolution scans of *The Recall*



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Newsletter of the Augusta Military Academy

Alumni Foundation, Inc.

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Please provide us with your 9-digit zip code! The Bayonet welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi and preferably in TIFF format. Printed color photos are also welcome.

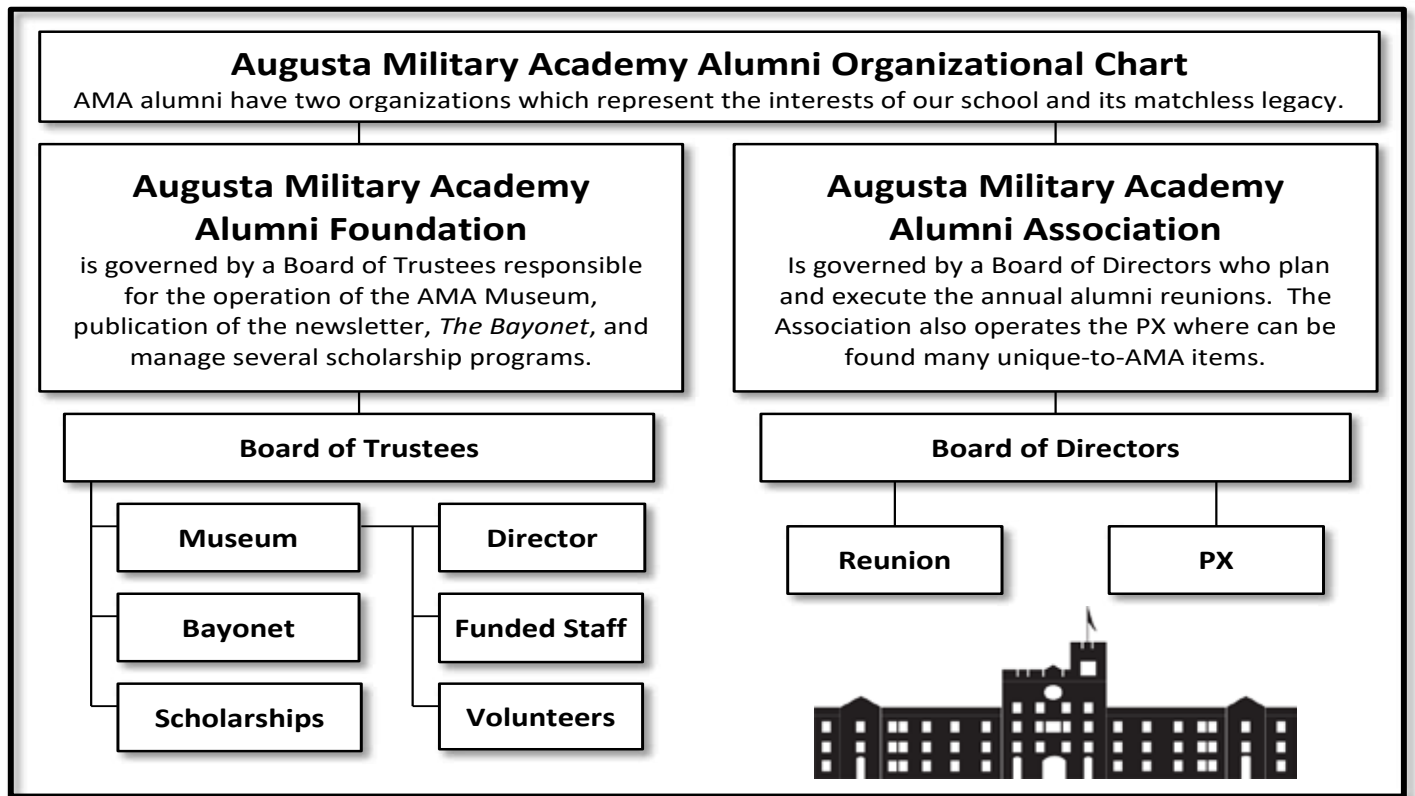
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Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc.

AMA Brothers and friends

This has been a year of change. There have been changes in our nation, changes in our economy, changes of personnel at our museum and changes within our leadership at AMA. Change can be frightening and seem unnecessary at times.

One thing that hasn't changed is our need for and our love for our museum. There are closed military schools across our country. Some have museums and active Alumni Associations but only AMA has a standalone museum, with a full time paid staff and completely funded by our Alumni. This alone puts us head and shoulders above these other Alumni Associations! We're a "Living History" museum. Alumni Docents are relating their personal experiences of Cadet Life at AMA. What a unique and informative experience for our visitors.

A few years ago, several of our Alumni decided to build a museum dedicated to everything that made AMA the school it was. They did research, raised funds, collected artifacts, reached out to lost Alumni and a thousand other tasks to make the project a success.

They were successful! They put together a great little museum and it's been the anchor of AMA Alumni ever since. Some of those Alumni have passed on and some are still with us. These Alumni have given a portion of their lives creating and supporting the museum and this

organization.

As the new Chairman of the BOT, I can tell each of you that the BOT is dedicated to honoring the memory of these Alumni and the museum by moving forward with a "Sustainability Plan". The Trustees have already started working on the details of this plan. Some of the details will include a new business plan, new fundraising efforts, grant writing research, streamlining the management of the museum and many other items. All these efforts are geared towards extending the life of our museum and our legacy long after we're gone.

This effort will involve all of us and I invite every AMA Alumni to join in this effort to ensure our legacy. We'll never agree on every issue and we'll always have differences just as we did when we lived in Big Barracks, and just as we did in Big Barracks, we need to band together for the common good of all of us and move forward. Let's stand together and move forward smartly in a fashion that would make Professor Roller proud!

I quote Charles S. Roller, III Valedictory speech in 1928,

"We have been taught to find a way or to make one".

Respectfully

Ed Rogerville, '76
Chairman, AMA Alumni Foundation



Treasurer's Report

A Quick Glance at Reunion Results

With the 2018 Reunion behind us, and in preparation of the Board of Trustees meetings June 15 and 16, I have begun the compilation of the Foundation finances through May 31, 2018.

Although there are several invoices related to the Reunion still outstanding, I have considered their estimated amounts, and while preliminary, I am comfortable reporting the net income of our gathering to be \$11,400.

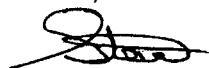
Directly benefiting the Foundation, the handgun raffle had receipts of \$4,360 and **Shelby Rogerville's** Challenge at Friday night's dinner at the Moose Lodge accounted for another \$700, for a total of \$5,060.

Adding together the Association's reunion income of \$11,400 and the Foundation's contribution related to the reunion of \$5,060, we have potential profit of \$16,460. That profit contributes a tremendous infusion to our operating needs and I hope is a precursor to our fundraising drive for the third and fourth quarters for 2018.

I would also like to announce that **Bill McVey, '60**, has bestowed the Foundation with \$10,000 creating a \$2,000 scholarship, designated the "**Benjamin Zinkhan Memorial Scholarship**," spread over a five-year period to honor his classmate and our most faithful, ever present, museum docent **Ben Zinkhan**.

As I had discussed in my last article, the Foundation is on sound footing for the foreseeable future, but long-term sustainability is on the forefront of the Trustees thoughts and actions. I am encouraged we are meeting over a two-day period in June, encouraged that we continue our group teleconferences, and I welcome your questions or comments between the publishing of the Bayonet by either emailing me at steve.traylor3@verizon.net, or by calling me directly at (301) 353-9295.

Thanking you for your support to this point, and into the future,



Steve Traylor

Treasurer.

Foundation Trustee Elections

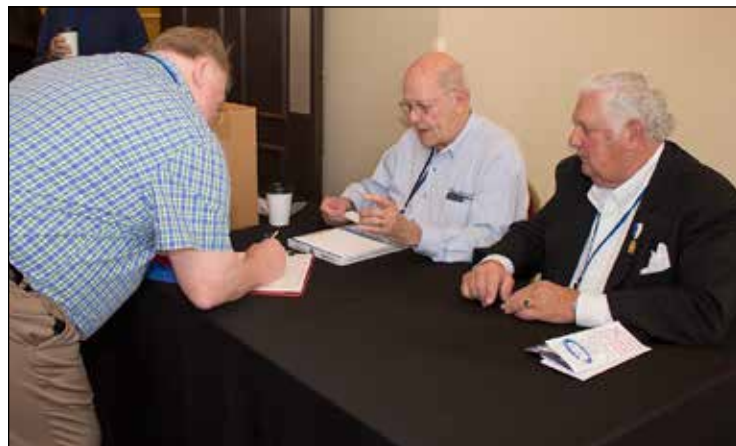
For the first time in recent memory, more nominations were received for Foundation Trustee positions than there were positions. So an election was held on Saturday morning to determine eight new trustees from 10 candidates.

Bob Bradford led the nominating committee composed of himself, **Jorge Roviroso**, **Jack White**, **Frank Williamson**, and **Gordon Metz**.

To accommodate the greater interest in leading the organization, the number of Trustees was increased from nine to twelve. This resulted in eight seats being filled by the election.

The election process was handled masterfully by Bob insuring accurate results from the balloting. Counting the ballots were Bob, Jorge, and Frank.

Overall, it was a very well organized election, thanks to Bob and his team.



Gary Granger, '71, signs in to receive his ballot as Bob Bradford, '50, and Frank Williamson, '60, look on.

The eight newly elected trustees are incumbent **Ed Rogerville, '76**, incumbent **Steve Traylor, '72**, **Doug Pennock, '72**, **Gary Cripps, '71**, **B.J. d'Orsay, '70**, **Tom Del Valle, '73**, **John Arthur, '75**, and **Victor Gomez, '69**.

Normally, newly elected trustees serve three year terms. But because of the increased number elected this year, it was decided to limit some of the terms of the newly elected trustees to just one or two terms, in order for future elections to determine just four seats each year.

Determined by a random drawing of names, Doug Pennock, Gary Cripps, Ed Rogerville, and B.J. d'Orsay will serve full three year terms. Steve Traylor and Tom Del Valle will serve two year terms, and John Arthur and Victor Gomez will serve one year terms.

The new and prior Trustees met in executive session after lunch to elect officers and turn the gavel over to the new Chairman. Ed Rogerville was elected as Chairman, Doug Pennock as Vice-Chairman, Steve Traylor as treasurer, and B.J. d'Orsay as Secretary.

For a complete listing of both the Foundation Trustees and the Association Directors, see page 32.

We Mourn the Loss of Ben Zinkhan, '60



Ben Zinkhan, '60 1941 - 2018

Together again with his beloved Joyce

Ben passed away March 29 after a brief battle with cancer.

There have been several articles about Ben in recent Bayonets. I don't feel the need to repeat any of that, as you can look back at those editions on the web site if you don't have paper copies of your own.

Perhaps the best way to memorialize Ben is to make note of the profound affect he had on those he encountered in life, and especially us, his AMA brothers.

What follows are comments made on Facebook and in emails.

Jorge Roviroso, '70 Today one of our most dear brothers and friend has joined the growing Corp of AMA boys assembling in heaven. May our good Lord bless his soul and give comfort to all the loved ones he

left here on earth. God speed good friend. We will never forget you ...Taps ...

Steve Trent, '70 A wonderful dedicated friend who can not be replaced. A person who knew the true meaning of selfless service. May he be in eternal peace with his wife, Joyce. Ben will be missed by all who know him. I have a note that Ben left for me at the Museum, but really it is to everyone that he dealt with in life...it ended with, "I love you more than you will ever know brother." That describes Ben's feelings about all of us. In life he was a man of action for AMA and he was an unsung hero for us all. We talk about how much he will be missed and I will tell you we don't know how much he is going to be missed. We all can get the full measure of that in a few weeks. God rest his soul. This years reunion is about us and as recommended we will dedicate it to our Beloved Friend BEN ZINKHAN.

Doug Pennock, '72 Ben's departure will leave a great void in the hearts of the people that knew him and loved him for the magnificent caring and hardworking man he was.

Tom Del Valle, '73 Ben was always an old soul and never judged others. He simply measured a man by his actions. I will miss his kindness and thoughtfulness most of all. He was always there when we needed him time for us to pay it forward !

Amanda Elliott I have been in contact with the family. Devin and I knew he was sick and the prognosis. Weekend before last we drove to Virginia to surprise him. You should have seen the look on his face. Priceless! This world just got a little darker with out him in it. He was an amazing man. I wouldn't be surprised if he wasn't already at the local fishing hole in heaven with Joyce. That is

A 20-minute tribute to Roller Society member's passings was presented at Lunch in the Gym. Most of the presentation was dedicated to Ben Zinkhan. A video of the presentation is available in it's entirety on our web site at <https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018/Roller-Society/i-ztHL2cX>

after he greeted her with a big hug and kiss. This loss is a hard one.

Susan Mariner Both Ben and Joyce were very special people. The AMA family will miss their dedication to help in any way that they could. Bill and I were very sorry to hear of Ben's passing.

Dave Saslaw, '74 ...salutes... His spirit and passion will be sorely missed at the Museum.

Robbie Rhodes, '63 Thank you for your service. Ben.

Richard Lassiter, '66, My bet is he is very much enjoying learning to use his new wings.

Rex Rumley, '69 Sadly missed. Rest In Peace Ben...

Bruce Higginbotham Hemp Oh my stars, what a shock. I sure wish I were home to help out. How terribly sad and what a huge loss for AMA.

Larry Alan Maske, '80 Ben was a true gentleman and was very devoted to keeping the Museum alive. RIP Ben and may your family find peace.

Luke Snyder, '60 Rest In Peace my friend. I knew Ben as a cadet and he welcomed me back when I came to AMA in 1998. I sure will miss him.

Bob Walker, '75 I am so saddened to hear this!!! Ben was a great man and a devoted volunteer to our Legacy!!!! I will miss him answering the phone at the museum! I will miss kidding him he still has tours to March!!! RIP my friend !!!!

Sergio Fernandez, '56 Ben is one of a kind, the best kind! Rest in Peace. He is going to be missed!!!

Víctor Gómez, '69 What can we say Ben, except that we all love you Young Man.

Evelyn Dayao-Gomez I will miss you my friend.

Brett Thompson, '75 I feel blessed to have known Ben over the many years he took care of the museum. I will miss him.

Bob Harris, '54 Ben has always been there for us at AMA. Thanks brother for your wonderful care of our alma mater and your seemingly tireless contributions ... What a wonderful AMA brother who dedicated the last 20 years to us. Rest in peace my friend.

Ed Rogerville, '76 He's one of a kind! Love this man!

B.j. d'Orsay, '70 Ben is the very definition of dedication. His devotion to AMA will never be surpassed. I love this man!

Krystal Zinkhan Goff: Thank you for honoring my dad, he would be humbled. Bless you all

Douglas W. Pennock, '72: Krystal, we all loved Ben like the brother and friend he was to all AMA Alumni. He will be missed. Your Mom and Dad were special people. We were all blessed to have crossed paths with them.

Krystal Zinkhan Goff: Doug, Thank you, he was a great daddy and pawpaw. Yes they were and they and myself have been blessed also by so many of his AMA family.

Bill McVey, '60 I believe the memory of Ben and his dedication to the AMA museum will become an additional component of the history the museum exhibits about our school and the character of our alumni. He, along with all of the rest of our alumni who were able to bring this museum into existence and keep it alive all these years, are truly part of that special breed it takes to bring dreams to reality. The rest of us owe you a great debt of gratitude... thank you!

Susan Lambert Yates This just makes me sad. Going to miss him calling me "darlin". Yes, I know he called all the ladies "darlin" ... just going to miss it!!

Víctor Gómez, '69 Young Man, it has been really hard to go into Armstrong's and the AMA Museum and then realize I will not be seeing your smiling/happy face. So glad I went to your house to say see you later Brother. "Love you man".

Leon Armentrout, '75 This man had great passion for his museum as well as the school that he loved!! R.I.P. Comrade!

Brett Thompson, '75 I met Ben so many years ago, I can't remember how long it has been. He has always been a good man,

working hard to make the museum what it is. I don't know if we will ever come close to finding the dedication Ben had for his school. His seat may never be filled. I will miss him, his hugs, his smile and the words most of us would hear as we would leave him at the museum... "I love you brother".

Rest in Peace, Ben



Dedicated in Memory of 1960 Graduate Ben Zinkhan and his lovely wife, Joyce, for their never-ending and selfless dedication to the Augusta Military Academy Museum. We will forever benefit from their gracious gifts of time, energy and love. This plaque is dedicated to them, and faithfully renames our portico "Z's Porch"

Ben's Funeral

by Garry Granger, '71

I was unable to attend the Monday night "family receiving of friends" but heard it was well attended by many AMA supporters, including **Frank and Bev Williamson** and **Gordon Metz**. The service on Tuesday was very nice. It was well attended and the Minister knew Ben well and described him spot on. She made mention of his work ethic, his friendly nature, and his desire to help and give of himself. She also mentioned his dedication to his church and to AMA. His daughter **Sherry** spoke and read two beautiful poems penned by his niece. Ben's grandson had the courage to stand up with his guitar and sing a caring song.

Ben was cremated. **Don Studer** and I were asked (along with two others) to be pallbearers. I carried a flag and Don carried the urn out of the church. Then we had a funeral procession to the graveside Service. It was short but very meaningful. Two uniformed soldiers unfolded and re-folded a flag, then handed it to **Bret Thompson, '75**, who (dressed in his Roller Rifle uniform) presented the flag to Ben's family and said the phrase "On behalf of a grateful nation ... "

Each of us pallbearers had been given a carnation for our lapel. At the end of the grave side service the funeral director removed our carnations and asked that we lay them on the alter beside the urn. That ended the service at the cemetery.

All this was followed by an incredible home cooked meal back at the church.

People I saw at the service included **Blaine Clarke, Steve Traylor, Steve Trent, Tom Del Valle, Mark & Sherry Femrite** and their granddaughter, **Brett Thompson, Victor and Evelyn Gomez, Jim Atchison, Ed Rogerville, Bob Hume, Frank Spencer, Sherry Lilly, Don Studer, Crysta Stephenson, and Mal and Linda Livick.**

It was a respectful and proper way to honor this wonderful man & brother.

GOD SPEED Ben

~ Garry



Brett Thompson, '75, and **Ben Zinkhan, '60**, in the last days, as posted on Facebook. Brett noted, "I had a great visit with Ben Zinkhan who is one of the finest individuals I have ever met!" Ben's daughter, **Krystal Zinkhan Goff**, replied, saying, "He talked to me about your visit and how much he enjoyed it. Thank you." **Bill McVey, '60**, one of Ben's classmates, commented "Lookin' good, brother Ben....but I didn't see any blueberry moonshine in your hand... you weren't hiding it from Laura, were you?! You are in our prayers every day, old friend, you know we are among the hundreds who love you like family, and look forward to seeing you in better times ahead." ~ Bill and Millie

I love you, Brother

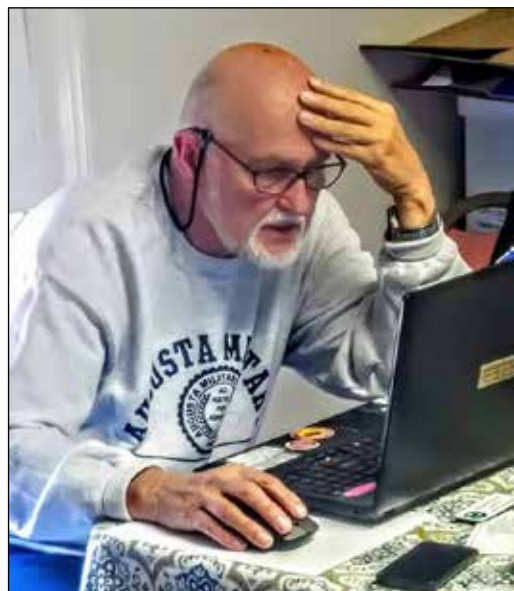


A group of Ben's friends and classmates had the plaque shown on the previous page made and purchased two rocking chairs for "**Z's Porch**". They have brass plates identifying one as Ben's and the other as Joyce's. The plaque is mounted on the wall to the right of the door for all to see and remember Ben and Joyce every time we have a "porch sit".

So many helped so much to make the reunion a great success and so enjoyable for everyone.

Thank you!

- **Crysta Stephenson** for coordinating the whole effort and seeing that everything got done, by someone.
- **Don Studer.** Be grateful he was here. Otherwise, there would have been no reunion. None. It would have been a big, fat mess. Seriously.
- **Steve Trent** for running the whole thing. Steve has taken on this task for many, many years. It is not only a thankless job, but one that lines you up for lots of darts and arrows. Not many men can do all that he has done and be happy to take in on for yet another year. But, he does. Our hat is off to him.
- **Frank Williamson** for securing a wonderful guest speaker in **Coach Bobby Ross**; and for chairing the SHOF Committee and making the presentations in the gym; and for coordinating the entire bus tour AGAIN this year; and sets us up with bottles of the good stuff for the Tower of Power. He's a force of nature.
- **Mal and Linda Livick** for always helping us line up the Augusta Stone Church as a rain location for the Founder's Day ceremony; and for gracing us with their youthful presence each year. What an inspiration!
- **Jim Mitchell** for his keynote speech Friday evening and his efforts throughout the reunion to recruit volunteers for the museum.
- **B.J. d'Orsay** for all the hard work giving the event plenty of promotion! We had the highest turnout at Reunion 2018 than we have had in the past 7 years.
- **Rick Smail** for running the Silent Auction and the Handgun Raffle. Without his effort, we would have about about \$6,500 less in our bank accounts. Rick also officiated the Founder's Day ceremony.
- **Phil Bentley** for serving as scholarship chairman AGAIN this year and for showing up to help behind the scenes AGAIN this year. How could we make it through this thing without you, Bentley?
- **Stride Coleman** for showing up early to help get everything done and give me a LOT of moral support.
- **Bob Bradford** for taking on the ungodly complicated task of heading the Nominating Committee. You deserve a medal, Sir! Thank you so much – AGAIN – for your service and loyalty to AMA.
- **Nominating Committee members – Frank Williamson, Jack White, Jorge Roviroso, Gordon Metz** – we also owe you men a debt of gratitude for a task that took on a life of its own as more and more candidates accepted nominations.
- To the **candidates** themselves, we thank you for your efforts in vying for seats on the board. In recent



Don Studer helping to organize and prepare for the reunion.

time, no one has shown this much interest in serving on the board. Here's to making your efforts pay off in the future!

- To the **Fishburne Military School Color Guard and Honor Guard**, thank you for adding a traditional element to our Founder's Day Ceremony.
- To **Blaine Clarke** for coordinating the clay shoot at the Flying Rabbit and for his steadfastness and support in the days and weeks leading up to Reunion and for being supportive of Crysta's time and efforts over the years. To you, *HAPPY RETIREMENT!*
- To **Ed Rogerville** for meeting his new role of chairman head-on and giving us all a structure for success in the future. To you, our best wishes for an incredible term. Ed also purchased the raffle pistol and had it engraved.
- **Shelby Rogerville** for her \$500 in five minutes campaign. It raised \$700 this year.
- **Garry Granger** for offering a most fitting tribute to Ben at the Saturday lunch.
- **Paul Poluito** for heading up The AMA Open AGAIN!!! And, to **Jack Prentice** for bringing Walter back!
- **Larry Cluster** and **Greg Douglas** here at the United Pentecostal Church for ALWAYS getting the campus presentable for our Reunion. Larry spent hours with B.J. getting the projector and sound to work in the gym for Ben's memorial slide show.
- **Mark Femrite** and **Steve Trent** for stocking the bar! And, bringing their pleasant personalities to the Hospitality Room.
- **Jorge Roviroso** for the wine contribution during the Friday Night dinner.
- **Morgan Liddick** for coordinating the WWI and memorial exhibits in the gymnasium. Thank you so much! Everything looked wonderful.
- **Brian and Sue Hart** for helping AGAIN with registration. You guys are priceless! Having you at the registration desk makes Reunion so much easier for me. We appreciate your help more than words can possibly express.
- **George Reaves** for taking on the hawking of tickets for Tower of Power and 50/50 tickets. Without your efforts, we'd be missing several hundred bucks from Reunion income. Thank you, thank you!
- **Gordon Metz** for his role as chaplain and keeping us all blessed during the meetings and other events at Reunion. With all the running and chaos and excitement of the overall event, we all can feel a special encouragement from above when he asks us to bow our heads. Gordon, we need those moments more than you. Hearing you lead us in prayer has become a special comfort to us over the years. We just want you to know how much we appreciate it.
- **Victor Gomez** for taking hundreds of photos and videos of the events.
- **Sergio and Lillian Fernandez** for always bringing delicious home-made bread pudding and flan for the hospitality room.
- **Casino night sponsors.** It would not have happened without the financial sponsorship of each gaming table.
- **Basket making ladies and all contributors to the silent auction.**
- **Robin Nin** who gave **Crysta** lots of encourage and support Reunion week. Crysta noted, *"I'm so very grateful to have your strength available when I need it."*

Opening Reception The Club at Ironwood



Nancy Botcheller and Linda Livick



Robin Nin, '84 and Crysta Stephenson



Angus Hines, 42 and
Rod Willey, 51



Bev Williamson, Jan d'Orsay
and Frank Williamson, '60



Rick Smail, '67, Ron Harris, '66, Robin Nin, '84, Henry Femrite '72

Everyone is so glad to reunite with friends and brothers.
And meet new ones!



Luke and Anne Snyder, '60



Erica and Jimmy Rochelle, '67

View more photos from the Thursday Evening Reception at
<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018/IronwoodReception/>

Reunion 2018



Garry Granger, '71, John Hash, '75 and John's wife Liz.



Susan Yates and Brett Thompson, '75
Susan attended Stuart Hall and has been an avid supporter of AMA ever since.



John Botcheller, '67 and Ron Harris, '66



Ellen McLaughlin and Brett DeCesari, '72



Tom DelValle, '73 and B.J. d'Orsay, '70



Fred Womer, '60 and Don Studer, faculty



Mary Ann Smail and Sherry Femrite



Ed Rogerville, '75 and wife Shelby



Ed Click, '50 and Blaine Clarke, '72

One highlight of Thursday Night's Reception was getting to meet **Sam Arbuckle, '52**, and his grandson **Michael**. When Sam received his personalized invitation to the reunion, he read the letter and turned to his grandson Michael and said, "I need to return to AMA." Sam had never been back to the school in the 66 years since he graduated in 1952. Sam's smile was contagious, and it was obvious his decision to return had been a correct one. They traveled 250 miles from their home in Parkesburg, Pennsylvania to attend.



Sam Arbuckle, '52 and grandson Michael

It was a beautiful day
for a tour of Historic Lexington



Judy Maragon "showing how to beat the rug" at Stonewall Jackson's House

Bright and early on Friday morning, the luxury motor coach bound for Lexington was boarded. From all accounts, a great time was had by everyone. Unfortunately, I received just these two photos. If you have photos of the trip you'd like to share with your fellow alumni, send them to me and I'll include them in the next Bayonet.

The cost of renting the coach was not within the Reunion budget, but ever faithful alumni stepped up to underwrite the cost. Many thanks go out to **Bill McVey, Bob Bradford, Jack White, Jorge Roviroso, Steve Trent, and Luke Snyder.** In addition to helping underwrite the cost of the coach, **Frank and Bev Williamson** paid for the adult beverages coming back from Lexington.



Luke Snyder (left) and John Maragon shopping (really waiting for Anne & Judy) on Main Street in Lexington.



Shelby Rogerville was everywhere this year, helping out everywhere there was a need. Prior to the reunion, she organized the Basket Auction. Shown here she is taking a turn at the registration desk during the Saturday Luncheon.



Luke Snyder was just about as happy as any raffle winner seen in recent years.

The Silent Auction was split into two sessions this year. Gift baskets made by the Women of AMA were silently auctioned off during the Saturday luncheon. Many thanks go out to Shelby Rogerville for organizing this effort. Not only were some operating funds for the Museum raised, it helped get our lovely ladies involved in the reunion once again, something we've been missing for the last few years. *Welcome back, Ladies!*

Our more traditional silent auction took place during Saturday Night's Casino Night.

We appreciate everyone who participated by bringing items to be auctioned and to those who bid and take home new treasures. This year we raised over \$2,500.



A complete lineup of baskets were on display for bidding on Saturday in the Gym.



The POW/MIA Table

This table symbolizes those brothers-in-arms, our comrades, that are absent today. They are the prisoners of war and those missing in action.

The **table** is smaller than the others here symbolizing the frailty of one alone against their oppressors.

The **empty chair** represents all those who are not with us.

The **white table cloth** represents the purity of their response to our country's call to arms.

The **single red rose** reminds us of their families, and of their love of our country, which inspired them to answer their nation's call to service.

The **yellow ribbon** symbolizes the everlasting hope for a reunion with those yet accounted for.

The **slices of lemon** on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate.

The **salt on the plate** represents the tears of their families.

The **glass turned upside down** reminds us that our comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast or join in these festivities.



AMA Clay Shoot at the Flying Rabbit. l to r: Blaine Clarke (organizer), Phil Bentley, Brett DeCesari, Ellen McLaughlin, Jimmy Rochelle, Garry Granger, Ed Rogerville, Mike Payne, Tom Del Vally, Stride Coleman, and Doug Pennock

All Photos by Victor Gomez

Clay Shoot Results

- 1st Place Phil Bentley, score of 73 (Phil's been shooting lights out since he was a cadet)
- 2nd Place Blaine Clarke, score of 72
- 3rd Place Mike Payne, score of 71 (Mike's better with a rifle at long range)
- 4th Place Stride Coleman ("I was using the wrong ammo")



Thanks go out to Blaine Clarke for organizing this event every year. And to Victor Gomez for taking photos. He said it was the most fun he's had during a reunion in a long time.

View more photos from the clay shoot as well as the awards ceremony photos and videos at
<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018/Clay-Shoot-at-the-Flying-Rabbit>

Golf

need more be said?



Left to right: Phil Casey, Garry Cripps, Jack Schwartzmann, Paul Poluito, Ron Harris, Howard Rosenthal, Jack Prentice, and Mickey Toms

Paul Poluito, '73, has done it again, raising \$400 for the Foundation at the annual golf tournament.

During Friday Night's award banquet, Paul thanked Jackson Prentice for the goodie bags he brings every year. Blaine Clarke who donated cash to buy balls for the goodie bags. Gary Cripps for his contributions to the goodie bags.

Recognition for closest to the pin on #3: Jackson Prentice

Recognition for closest to the pin on #14: Phil Casey

The winning team, whose names goes on Walter, are Ron Harris, Jackson Prentice, Mickey Toms, and Paul Poluito.

Paul also gave a special shout out to his wife, Phyllis, for her emergency coffee run for Jackson Prentice !



Paul and Phyllis Poluito



The winning team this year: Jack Prentice, Paul Poluito (holding Walter), and Mickey Toms. Not pictured is Ron Harris.

View more photos from the golf match as well as the awards ceremony photos and videos at

<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018/Golf>

Ray Stapleton, of Staunton, from the Sons of the American Revolution gifted the museum a poignant painting featuring the Vietnam Wall. Mr. Stapleton was unable to attend the banquet to make the presentation himself due to health concerns.



Crysta Stephenson and Brett Thompson present Ray Stapleton's gift.

Reunion 2018

What it Means to be an AMA Alumnus

Coming Full Circle

by Jim Mitchell

Jim Mitchell, '76, addressed the Friday Night gathering at the Moose Lodge in Waynesboro, offering up his thoughts and feelings on what it means to be an alumnus of Augusta Military Academy.

Jim started by saying his time at AMA “encompasses many of the most cherished, memorable, life-changing moments and events in my life.”

“My first year, being a Yankee, and a Yankee that didn’t care much about authority, those Southern boys had a field day with me. Before my first year was over, I sent away for the Charles Atlas course from the back of a comic book, and worked out hard all during the summer. When I came back my second year, no body rubbed shoe polish in my face anymore. “

Jim explained how lifelong friends were made at AMA and new ones are made from alumni at reunions. “An example,” he says, “ is **Brett Thompson**, the ball-buster. I couldn’t stand him at AMA, he was a big reason I sent away for the Charles Atlas course. Couple of years later, at a reunion we started talking and realized I’ve changed, he’s changed, and we became good friends and I think of him as one of my closest friends at AMA, something I never would have dreamed of back at AMA.” AMA Reunions have a funny way of doing that, rekindling old friendships and making new ones.

“One of the most cherished relationships that has grown and enriched my life to this day: my friendship with **Colonel and Mrs. Livick** and their children. My parents have been long gone, and the Colonel and Linda have become what I figure is the closest thing I have to a father and mother and I love you both.”

Being an Alumnus of AMA has now come full circle for Jim.

“First, I was an AMA cadet, the foundation for the rest of my life.”

“Second, my early years as an alumnus, finding my way in life, making it back to reunions, keeping AMA friendships strong.”

“Third, the middle years, still working the 70 hours weeks, but able to help out a little bit financially, as AMA keeps giving back to me.”

“And now, the full circle of what it means to me to be an AMA alumnus; time – time to give back to something that has given me so much. I not only need to, I want to give back to AMA. And give back to AMA right now. Because we are at a crossroads. The museum, the physical apex of our days as cadets and alumni of AMA, needs new blood.”

“When visitors are given a tour of our museum by one of our own, it takes their experience to a whole new level. Guard duty at the museum will put you right back in the days of the Barracks, the Big Room, the Gym, marching on the field.”

“I’m signing up for three weekends of guard duty between now and the end of September. Manning the AMA museum on Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, 12 hours of a weekend spent back in time in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley on the AMA grounds. Reliving the AMA experience to the AMA visitors and sitting on the AMA porch in a rocking chair, looking out over the bowl and the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains, reminiscing. “



Steve Trent, '70, thanks Jim Mitchell, '76, for his speech.

You can see Jim’s Keynote address video by visiting

<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018/Jim-Mitchell-Keynote-Address/>

John Botcheller Receives 1967 English Award

John Botcheller, '67, is perhaps the most awarded cadet in AMA's history. John's roommate, **Mickey Toms, '67**, was the only other cadet to receive a medal at the 1967 graduation. In an act of unparalleled love and friendship, as only he can, Mickey awarded John Botcheller with his English medal, making it a complete sweep for John. **Steve Trent, '70**, commented that John is now the Audie Murphy of AMA.



Friday Night Fun



Friday night was far from all seriousness.

Above, **Steve Trent** presents **George Reaves** with Republican memorabilia, which George appears to be just thrilled to get.

Right above, **Shelby Rogerville** explain the rules for the \$500 in 5 minutes challenge. This is the second year Shelby has orchestrated the event, and it raised \$700 this year.

Right below, **Henry Femrite** and **Bud Oakey** boast who's giving the most, or perhaps getting the other to give more, hard to tell.



Reunion 2018

Casino Night Saturday was a big win.

Heavy appetizers and a cash bar started the evening off, and as many alumni browsed and bid at the silent auction, others hit the gaming tables. It was also the appropriate night to award the pistol to raffle winner Luke Snyder, '60. Tower of Power and 50/50 drawings were also held. It was a fitting finish to a reunion whose theme was **"It's About Us."**

We've often talked about having more time to just visit, have fun, and renew friendships. This event fit the bill perfectly.



Frequent reunion attendees **Fred Womer, '60**, and **Howard Rosenthal, '68**, are joined by first timers **Jorge Vence, '78**, and **Ron Ginns, '70**, at the blackjack table. Jorge was Battalion Commander in 1978. Ron Ginns was **Doc Savedge's** *Recall* photo expert for many years. It was the first reunion for both, and by all appearances, they had a great time.



Becky Granger, Rose and **Rex Rumley, '69**, hope for the best at the blackjack table. It had been several years since Rose and Rex had been able to come to a reunion. We were glad to see them again.



Nancy Bradford picks the winning 50/50 ticket for **Steve Trent**.

The gaming tables cost a lot, more than we could normally afford. And so we are grateful for those who stepped up to sponsor the night:

Full table sponsors:

Blaine Clarke
Jorge Roviroso
Rick Smail
Steve Trent

Partial table sponsors:

Luke Snyder
John Wright
Jack Schwarzman
Jack White

View more photos at

<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018/Casino-Night/>



Jan d'Orsay and **Lillian Fernandez** consult on the best bet at the roulette table. The two ladies spent time together and became good friends during the reunion.

Founders Day Ceremony

Rick Smail officiated the ceremony again this year. The following are excerpts from his remarks:

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended the hostilities between the warring factions participating in the Great War.

Augusta Military Academy lost eight of her sons:

Herbert Richie — Class of 1907

Richard Howard — Class of 1909

John Kirkpatrick — Class of 1909

Thomas D. Armory — Class of 1910

William F. Welch — Class of 1911

Elliott M. Braxton, Jr. — Class of 1913

Lloyd B. Liebler — Class of 1913

Jay F. Clermmer — Class of 1914

*Our reunion theme this year is **It's About Us**—all those who attended AMA and still come here every spring to renew the brotherhood we shared at AMA.*

How many of you remember what it was like to arrive?

Do you remember getting fitted for your uniform

and your first hair cut?

How did you feel about being a new cadet? If you could get into Big Barracks today could you walk the stoops in a brace or eat a square meal?

How much have you forgotten about Sunday Parades? Anything? I doubt it. Every Sunday afternoon no matter what the weather!

I still remember inspections, both in my room and on the blacktop.

It really was an incredible journey and those of us who come back here every spring are still on the trip.

It is encouraging to see so many of us choose to attend this year. It is not lost on me that life is fragile and too often cut short.

We have needs for volunteers at the museum, but more important than the needs of the museum or foundation, is making sure we don't forget our brothers. Father time continues to march on and when we look in the mirror it is undeniable that most of us are playing in the fourth quarter and for some the two minute warning has been given. Hug your brothers while you can. Live your life with as much passion as you can muster and don't look back when you make the final assessment and regret missing time spent with your brothers.



Steve Trent and Blaine Clarke lay the wreath.



Lee Livick Combs, Mal and Linda Livick look on during Founder's Day ceremony from the shade.

During the 2001 Founder's Day Ceremony, **Linda Roller Livick** recalled the origins of the day more than a century ago. "Professor Roller's wife," said Mrs. Livick, "was reported to have come into the Professor's classroom one May 8 to announce that it was the Professor's birthday, and that the rest of the day was a holiday. Until Professor Roller

died in 1907, May 8 was always a birthday celebration. After his death, it became a day of remembrance. Still today, the annual AMA Alumni Reunion is held on the closest weekend to May 8." View the entire article in the Summer 2001 Bayonet, available on our website, www.AMAalumni.org

View more photos and a video of Founder's Day Ceremony at
<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018/Founders-Day-Ceremony/>



Founder's Day Ceremony honors those alumni fallen in the service of their country, all alumni who have passed away since the last Founder's Day Ceremony, and last but certainly not least, we pay homage to AMA's founder, Charles Summerville Roller by laying a wreath at the foot of the obelisk marking the final resting place of the man. To the right are the inscriptions on Roller's marker.



Bobby Ross speaks of the lessons taught by sports

Then presents awards to our Sports Hall Of Fame inductees

Bobby Ross has been a personal friend of our very own Frank Williamson, '60, since Frank was 12 years old. But beyond that, Bobby is a former American football player and coach. He served as the head football coach at The Citadel (1973–1977), the University of Maryland, College Park (1982–1986), the Georgia Institute of Technology (1987–1991), and the United States Military Academy (2004–2006), compiling a career college football record of 103–101–2. Ross was also the head coach of the National Football League's San Diego Chargers from 1992 to 1996



Can Bobby's lessons from sports help us today, as we manage and prepare AMA for the future? I say yes, absolutely, yes they can!

The story of Tom Scott reminds us that we are “*never to bail out*” from our goal to achieve a lasting AMA Legacy, either as individuals or as groups.

Bobby's words of wisdom regarding teamwork, strike a familiar tone in our AMA family today. “*There's no 'I' in teamwork. 'We' is the foundation of anyone's success. It's all about family. In team building each member of the team must have trust and respect for his or her teammates, and that's true in life, that's true in our family, that's true everywhere.*” ... even AMA.

“*Fear of failure is the greatest failure of all.*” We cannot let our fear of someone else's failures rule our thoughts and emotions.

Heads we win, tails we lose.

and the Detroit Lions from 1997 to 2000, tallying a career NFL mark of 77–68. He guided his 1990 Georgia Tech squad to the UPI national championship and coached the 1994 San Diego Chargers to an appearance in Super Bowl XXIX.¹

Mr. Ross spoke of six lessons sports teaches: working with people from different cultures and parts of the world, teamwork, perseverance, overcoming failure, goals, and hard work.

His anecdotes were humorous and illustrated his points well. His main point was that these lessons taught by sports apply to everyone in all facets of our lives, whether we participated in sports or not.

While coaching at Kansas City, Bobby Ross told the story of running on to the field and bumping into an elderly fan, a woman about 80 years old, all decked out in the team colors. After inadvertently bumping into her, he turned and said, “*No offense, ma'am.*” She replied, “*You're damned right, no defense either.*” “*I learned very quickly what pro football was all about.*”

Bobby talked to us about Tom Scott, one of the greatest football players to ever play at University of Virginia. Tom was a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, and played for the Philadelphia Eagles and the New York Giants. Tom believed that football was a major part of the success in his life, saying, “*There were times when I could have given up on myself but I couldn't do that. I honestly believe the lessons that football taught, never to bail out regardless of the circumstances, served me well as it has during all other crises that I've faced in my life.*”

In building teamwork, there is no “I” in the word. “We” is the foundation of anyone's success.

The fear of failure is the greatest failure of all.

Bobby concluded with this:

*“The good Lord gave us two ends,
with a common link.
one is to sit on,
one is to think.*

*Success depends on what you choose,
heads you win, tails you lose.”*

You can view the video and hear Bobby in his own words

<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/reunion-2018/SaturdayLunch/>

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Bobby Ross." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 22 Apr. 2018. Web. 1 May. 2018.



Left: **Hugh Harmon**, far left, with his team mates on the 1958 fencing team.



Above, **Fred Womer, '58**, accepts the Sports Hall of Fame award on behalf of his friend and classmate **Hugh Harmon, '58**.

The first inductee for this year's Sports Hall of Fame is **Hugh Harmon** from the class of 1958. Hugh was an AMA "lifer". He spent 7 years at AMA from 1951 to 1958. In foil, Hugh's team smashed the Naval Academy's nine year record of unbeaten foil competition. He was the only unbeaten member of AMA's team that year. Due to recent surgery, Hugh is unable to travel at this time. Hugh expressed his honor at being inducted into the AMA Sports Hall of Fame. Accepting the award for Hugh was his classmate Fred Womer, '58.



Hugh Harmon, left, practices with teammate James Towe prior to the USNA meet.



Thom McCabe, '74
Fencing
epee



Our second inductee is **Tom McCabe, '74**. His choice of weapons was the epee. He was undefeated in his last year. When we notified Tom of his selection, he was very candid. One of the very biggest thrills coming from AMA hosting the 50th tournament in this very gymnasium in 1973. He said the gym was packed with not only AMA cadets but also with the other teams' supporters. As the tournament wound down to the last bout, the score was tied at 12-12. Tom's epee bout would be the tie-breaker. He had already had eight bouts. The usual length of a bout for this type of competition was about 10 minutes. This match went on for 45 minutes. Finally Tom stuck the final match point. the gym erupted into great hoopla and hurrays and Tom was carried out the front doors of the gym on the shoulders of his teammates. He was also the official drummer in the revised Roller Rifles.



Phil Bentley, '83
Rifle

According to **Phil Bentley's**, coach, **Sergeant Don Studer**, Phil lead the only rifle team with an undefeated season in the 1970's and 1980's. He was one of only 6 cadets that shot a score of over 260 during this period. He continues to break records at AMA at the annual reunion clay shoot. This year, Phil shot 73 out of 100 clays to come in first place in the 2018 Clay Shoot.

Because there were no *Recalls* in the late 70's and 80's, photos of the era are rare. The photo to the right was taken from a scan of a 1983 Bayonet.



Right: Top row, left to right Phil Bentley, Max Corley, Escalastico
Bottom row, left to right: Angelo Greco, Robert Steele



Scholarship Award

Amanda Kenn is the grand-daughter of **Maurice Coulon**, AMA class of 1959.

Amanda will attend Georgetown University where she will take classes that further her language skills in French and prepare her for an eventual Law degree. She aspires to join Lawyers Without Borders when her college career is finished.

Amanda is currently a senior at Hingham High School in Hingham, Massachusetts and a member of the National Honors Society with a GPA of 4.05.

She has been a member of her school debate team since 2014 and is the current Team Captain. She is her French Club's Planner. She is a winner of the Dartmouth College Junior Book Award for 2017. She has been a member of the school Swim and Dive Team since 2014 and is currently the Team Captain.

Amanda volunteers at the Hingham Food Pantry, as well as Autism Speaks.

In recommending Amanda for this scholarship, her French instructor wrote, *"I have rarely taught a student who is more respectful, more trustworthy, more self-effacing despite her intelligence, or more uplifting to be around."*

We congratulate Amanda Kenn on receiving this AMA Legacy Scholarship.



**Amanda
Kenn**



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

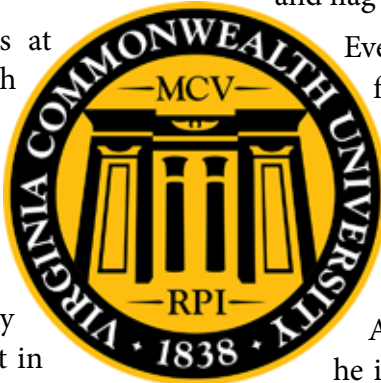
Everett S. Lee is the grandson of **Kong Chin**, AMA class of 1963.

Everett is currently a Junior at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he is majoring in Biology with the intent to attend dental school.

His involvement with various groups at college is extensive. The VCU Pre-Health Acceleration Program exposes students to an accelerated curriculum in Math and the Sciences, volunteer work, and leadership roles. He is the treasurer of the Delta Epsilon Mu Fraternity. He is a counselor in the Muscular Dystrophy Association. He is a teacher's assistant in the General Chemistry class and a preceptor for the General Biology class. He is a member of the VCU Health Brigade and a Children's Hospital of Richmond Emergency Room Volunteer, where he plans sporting events for children in wheelchairs,

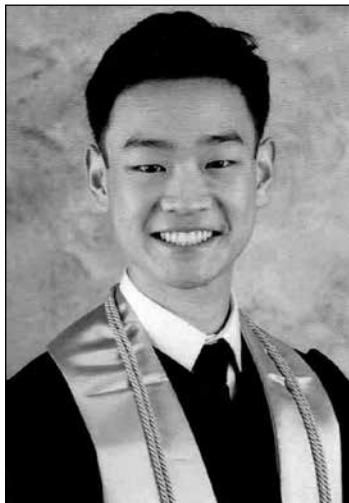
raises money for the Youth Inspire program that hands out toys and gift cards to patients during the holidays.

In his spare time, Everett plays intramural soccer and flag football.



Everett has looked to his Grandfather for guidance and wisdom throughout his life. His Grandfather taught him about respect, integrity, perseverance, hard work and love. His Grandfather credits his own experience at Augusta Military Academy with making him the man he is today. Everett expresses his hope that he can emulate his Grandfather in all his future endeavors.

We are pleased to award Everett with an AMA Legacy Scholarship.



Top: Yok Kong Chaing, '63 and grandson Everett Lee.



Left: l to r: Steve Trent, Everett Lee, Phil Bentley (in the rear), Yok Kong Chaing, Choi Chaing, Doris Lee, and Stephen Lee.

Fishburne Military School Scholarships



Christian Towler, accompanied by his parents, received the Augusta Military Scholarship, sponsored by our AMA Alumni.



Tommy Dao is awarded the Livick Scholarship sponsored by Scott Travers in honor of Col. and Mrs. Livick. Presenting Tommy with his award is **Mal Livick, Jr., '75**.



Fishburne Military School cadets
Tommy Dao and **Christian Fowler**

Christian Towler and **Tommy Dao** are Juniors at Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Virginia. Both are honor students and easily manage to stay out of trouble.

Christian is from Waynesboro. He is on the Honor Roll, plays football and lacrosse. He has only had one tour on the blacktop.

Tommy is from Straughton, Maine. He is on the distinguished Honor Roll. He runs track and Field and is on the Drill Team.

The relationship between Augusta Military Academy and Fishburne Military School goes back well over 100 years to the VMI Class of 1901, where Charles S. Roller, Jr. (The Big Boy) and Morgan H. Hudgins were classmates and good friends. Morgan Hudgins went on to be Superintendent of Fishburne Military School from 1913 to 1952. And we all know that C.S. Roller, Jr. was at AMA from the time of his graduation from VMI until his death in 1963. Throughout the years these two men maintained their close friendship.

That friendship continues to this day through the close association between our two alumni groups. And Fishburne can always be counted on for their support in the form of their cadet Honor Guard and Color Guard.

AMA provides two scholarships annually to worthy FMS cadets. In addition to these, the Roller-Hudgins Endowed Scholarship fund continues to grow through the contributions of alumni from both schools. Once the fund reaches the minimum endowment amount of \$25,000, scholarships will begin to be awarded to the legacy of an AMA graduate or an other military school to a student wishing to attend Fishburne Military School.





Fishburne Military School Color Guard and Honor Guard were present for our Founder's Day ceremony at the Old Stone Church Cemetery. **Gordon Metz, '68**, our Foundation Chaplain, read the names of 46 alumni who have died since the 2017 Reunion. **Bud Oakey, '70**, played Taps followed by the firing of the of the three volley salute by the Fishburne Honor Guard.



Ladies of AMA

by Nancy Botcheller

*Reunion 2018 gave me opportunity to spend quality time with **Crysta Stephenson, AMA Executive Director of The Museum**. Crysta's direct link to AMA is through her great grandfather's sister, **Janet Stephenson**. Janet married Charles S. Roller, Jr., and so the legacy continues.*



Crysta was born in Staunton at The Old Kings Daughters Hospital on August 28, 1971. She was named after her mother Crystal; her Dad nicknamed her Sugar Bear before they left the hospital. She is presently fondly called Sugar Bear by her family and friends.

AMA has been present in her life since she was born. General Roller gave her dad a pinto pony when he was young. The family named him Big

Boy after the General. Crysta's grandmother often told her stories of the day the little pony was given to her children. The pony was so tiny, he was lifted off a truck by one man and set down in the barnyard. Big Boy was quite old when Crysta was a little girl but she fondly remembers climbing all over him. Her dad proudly posed beside Crysta and the pony; it is one of her fondest memories of a very loved pony and her dad. Crysta said there are 8mm films of Big Boy who was very loved until the day he died. She recalls that day: he just gently laid down in the summer grass beside the creek in the barnyard where he always slept. The family's beloved Big Boy was gone and he was buried with utmost care and dewy eyes. Crysta's family speak often about their memories of the dear pony.

Crysta grew up on the family farm in Monterey. We discussed the General having met her great great aunt at a dance in Staunton and made that trip from AMA to the farm in Monterey to court the lovely Janet. Crysta's Granddaddy Boyd, Janet's nephew, was also an AMA cadet who apparently ran away from school in 1942 to join the Navy. He became a gunner on a merchant marine ship off the coast of Japan when the bombs were dropped. Granddad made it home to Highland County, Virginia and went about creating the farm in Monterey. The farmstead includes the original tract of land that the Stephenson's settled on after they immigrated from Ulster, Ireland in the 1600's. It remains called Glenwood to this day.

As a child, Crysta was so inquisitive she was nicknamed Nosy Rosy by her Mother. Crysta followed her Granddaddy and her uncles around the farm always asking questions. Every day after lunch her granddaddy played jazz on the piano; he was self taught. She was always by his side when she heard him playing. She describes him as an incredible man who stood straight and tall. Had an incredible work ethic and was a proud gentleman. His 44 button coat is still in the upstairs closet at the original farmhouse. His photo sits on Crysta's desk at AMA.

Crysta's dad's idea of summer vacations was going to

Civil war battlefields in Virginia . Her mom seems more interested in the hotels and swimming pools during their travels. Bless her spirit as she rode with her family to Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and Appomattox. The McClean House at Appomattox sealed the deal for Crysta. She wanted to be someone who worked at a historic site. At 10 years old she thought that was the coolest job ever.

We fast forwarded to college years, when Crysta attended Mary Baldwin College in Staunton. The Nosy Rosy sprouted to life and she decided to major in journalism with a minor in history. She expressed that her education was superb and before graduation, got a job as a newspaper editor. After many years of marriage, two daughters and a divorce, she decided to move her daughters back home to Glenwood in Monterey where they were raised. She is very proud of her girls and her decision. She worked at a hometown newspaper until she heard a Highland County Civil war era home would become a museum. She thought it was a miracle that she was hired and says she heard the angels hallelujah chorus singing; she was going to be that someone who worked at a historic place. She was the Executive Director at The Highland Museum until 2009. She loved her job, which she recalls as pretty perfect. Unfortunately, due to the economy, a full time position was no longer possible.

It is clear that Crysta's family, legacy, and history have instilled in her similar values as the cadets of AMA. It keeps her fueled to maintain the stories and the history of AMA. She grew up surrounded by family that repeated the history of their land and their journeys over generations.

A few years ago, a surprise development occurred while working with alumnus **Robin Nin, '84** from Miami. Robin is the administrator of the AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY Facebook page. They were in constant contact and he finally decided they should meet in person and planned a visit. She recalled he was late and thought he'd stood her up. He called and said please wait 10 more minutes. He pulled



Robin and Crysta enjoy watching the Reunion 2018's Saturday Luncheon activities from the balcony of the old AMA gym.

At a Virginia Association of Museums conference, she made a contact with AMA. Tina Shafer answered the phone at AMA and was astonished as they were just beginning a search to hire someone additional to handle museum collections. Crysta was hired part time and shortly afterwards, Tina's husband was transferred to Florida. A few months later Crysta was offered a full time position as Executive Director. The first seven years she drove 1 hour 20 minutes over five mountains from Monterey to Fort Defiance. Her daughters were still in school and she was determined they finish school in Highland County where she was raised. The girls went on to Blue Ridge Community College and they also commuted daily over the mountains.

up to the museum on his motorcycle removed his helmet and that was that! Deal sealed! Robin and Crysta decided to leave Miami and Monterey and they moved to Staunton together.

It was such a pleasure getting to know more about this amazing AMA lady. Crysta: you certainly are well connected to AMA and we are all very fortunate to have your knowledge, your family background, and your love of history helping to ensure the continued success of our museum.

Thank you, Crysta.

~ 1950 ~

Ed Click and **Sue** embarked on a 60 day Asian cruise in mid-February returning home in April just in time for the reunion. The Clicks amazing adventure included visits to Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, The Philippines, Taiwan, Okinawa, Japan and China.

[edwin.click@comcast.net]

~ 1953 ~

Jay Fox and **Lew Mundin** both live in Richmond and manage to swim every day. Lew says he weighs "132 soaking wet." Jay and Lew both attend St Stephen's Episcopal Church in the capital city.

[Lmundin1935@gmail.com]

Manuel Balbis had a new aortic heart valve installed, "a minimally invasive surgery" that left no scar. Mawet says he feels great and the doctors say that the pig's valve will be good for many years.

[Mbalbis@aol.com]

~ 1959 ~

Lloyd Eastlack "Been a long time since connecting with anyone from AMA but George Holt and Luke Snyder. Wanted to play catch up.

Became single six years ago and moved from New Bern, NC to Asheboro, NC to be closer to my daughter, a Stuart Hall graduate. After running a charter boat and owning a tackle shop, things slowed to a crawl, so, I took up something I have always wanted to do, I began singing.

Started taking voice lessons again and now I'm singing primarily in churches and retirement homes. Most of my music is Broadway, religious and old favorites with a little smattering of the 50's and 60's. I'm planning on attending the reunion this year, the Lord willing, and hope to visit with those remaining from my class, thanks."

~ 1963 ~

Mike Stevons is the former owner of the Design for Excellence Group, a component of Ameriplan USA. He studied business administration at the University of Pittsburgh and now lives in Clearwater, FL.

~ 1966 ~

Paul Thomson from Facebook:

"Well good morning folks! Well, this morning I am heading down to Fauquier High School to run the Skills USA Electrical Competition for high school students. This will be the first time I have no students

competing due to system closing down the electricity program! Instead, I will represent the IBEW Local Union 26 and the JATC/NECA who are sponsoring it! I am proud to do this with total professionals who are volunteering thier time and will judge these young people who compete in a field they totally enjoy and will make large amounts of money and hopefully we can persuade them to join our awesome apprenticeship program who start out at about 20 bucks an hour! I am very Blessed to be back home with my Brothers and Sisters! May God Bless us and these young people today!"

~ 1968 ~

Gordon Metz celebrated his 70 birthday while attending the Board of Trustees meeting at the AMA campus in February.

~ 1972 ~

Blaine Clarke retired on 1 January after many years of faithful service as a family intervention specialist (therapist) for Montgomery County, MD. Blaine is the outgoing Chairman of the AMA Alumni Foundation and lives in Germantown, MD.

~ 1979 ~

Paul Karch Sr.'s company GARDANT GLOBAL, a leading strategic management consulting company has recently opened offices in Prague, Czech Republic expanding it's global presence from the US and UK to continental Europe.

Paul Karch Jr. (16) has been selected to play soccer within the DC United Professional Academy system and was also selected to the US Olympic Development Program (ODP) National Southern Region team and is traveling to Lisbon Portugal representing the US 16's against a number of Portuguese teams.

[pk12345@yahoo.com]



Another tradition growing each year is the traditional cigar smoke-in at the Holiday Inn after the banquet. The group grows in number each year.

Pete is alive
and well in
Richmond VA. still
in his home with
wife of 66 1/2
years —
He is a
retired hospital
administrator.



We received this note from the
spouse of Peter Lambert, '44



Sunday Breakfast at Bruce Hemp's home is a reunion tradition.
Left to right: Jim Mitchell, Gordon Metz, Tom Del Valle, Jorge Roviroso, Jim Atchison, Bruce Hemp, Lewie Kennett, Doug Pennock, John Arthur, Garry Granger, Mike Kidd, and Bud Oakey.



Mitchells, in Pittsburg, PA, a family owned restaurant and Bar owned by the Jim Mitchell family. See the video of Jim's speech at
<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018/Jim-Mitchell-Keynote-Address/>

View these and hundreds of other Reunion
2018 photos at our galleries website:
<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018>

Renewed enthusiasm and energy characterizes both Boards following elections at our 2018. While the Association Board roster changed very little, the roster of Trustees has changed dramatically. The number of trustees was increased by three to accommodate more interest in serving. And five of the trustees have either never been involved with the leadership of our alumni, or they have been inactive for an extended period of time.

Reunion 2019 planning began a week after this year's reunion. An opportunity to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns was brought to fruition by **Garry Granger, '70**. See facing page.

Voluntarism at the museum is already showing improvements, since **Jim Mitchell** and **Blaine Clarke** worked so hard to bring it to everyone's attention during the reunion. If you were not there, check out the videos available on our galleries site (<https://galleries.amaalumni.org/Reunion-2018>).

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC.

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Year after name indicates when term is up

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Stephen G. Trent, '70
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AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Board of Directors - 2018-2019

Year after name indicates when term is up

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Reunion 2019 update

The Theme for R2019 is “Honoring the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the 54 Alumni lost during the war”.

We're pleased to announce, that as we prepare for the April, 2019 reunion, we'll begin by placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Our request was approved and we're scheduled to participate in this respectful gesture on **Friday September 14, 2018 @ 12:15 pm**. We invite all alumni, staff, faculty and friends to witness this ceremony.

Strict security, dress code and do's and don't's are available on the website www.ArlingtonNationalCemetery.mil or www.AMAAlumni.org. Primarily, business casual is the Dress Code.

In 1997, 21 years ago, AMA was granted the same honor to lay a wreath at this historical site. Perhaps just a coincidence, 21 is also the number of steps and the number of seconds the Sentinel (Old Guard) march



and wait as they respectfully guard the Tomb.

The tomb is the final resting place of unidentifiable remains of American servicemen/women from WWI, WWII and Korea. Remains from Vietnam were interred in 1984, yet modern technology (DNA testing) identified them and they were exhumed in 1998 and returned to the family.

Reunion 2019 is gearing up to be one of our best. While we're still 10 months away, we're hoping to have exciting events and a very special guest speaker. The reunion committee is working diligently to attain a wider variety of Silent Auction items to make R2019 as memorable as possible. Make plans now to join me and fellow Alumni at Arlington National Cemetery in mid-September 2018 and attend Reunion in April 2019. More to follow !!

LtC Steve Trent US Army Retired
President AMA Alumni Association



A large group of AMA alumni and friends attended the laying of the wreath 21 years ago.



During the 1997 laying of the wreath, *left to right*: Clyde Ramsey, '49, who served 16 months in Korea during the Korean War; Lieutenant Colonel Steve Trent, '70, representing alumni who served in Desert Storm; Goodloe Saunders, '57, retired Air Force lieutenant Colonel, Vietnam Veteran and then President of the AMA Alumni Association; Mickey Gordon, '39, Marine combat veteran of World War II; and members of the 3rd infantry Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

Details and guidelines for attending the ceremony are available on our website:

<http://amaalumni.org/laying-the-wreath/>

This summer marks the beginning of a new era at your AMA museum.

Since the reunion in April, a new enthusiastic group of museum volunteers have begun to step up. These men and women are exemplifying the spirit so beautifully spelled out in our slogan, *Ad Astra per Aspera – To the Stars Through Difficulty*.

A prime example was set recently by **Brett DeCesari**, '72, and **Ellen McLaughlin**. They attended Brett's first reunion since graduation this past April, and got fired up, once again, for his school.

They recently drove down from Pennsylvania for the weekend. Not content to simply wait for visitors, Brett jumped in and borrowed a pair of hedge shears from the church grounds keeper and went to trimming the front hedges which were overgrown and obscuring the view of the flags out front of the museum. Meanwhile, Ellen went to town cleaning the inside of the museum.

As I write this, **Jim Mitchell**, '76, says he's coming down for the weekend in two weeks. "*I'm bringing my tool belt, get me a list of things that need work,*" he told volunteer coordinator **Victor Gomez**, '69.

And as a show of unifying commitment, the Trustees of the Foundation have committed to volunteer as docent one or more times per year. Thirteen trustees means that 13, or one-quarter, of the weekends are covered by our leadership.

In addition to the weekends, we need volunteers able to spend their time at the museum during the week. **B.J. d'Orsay**, '70, has committed to June 20 and 21.

Contact Victor Gomez at volunteer@AMAalumni.org to join the band wagon.

Together we can make this the best experience for our visitors.

We've had 972 visitors this year through May 24th! Lets aim for 2,000 this year by providing the best experience of any attraction in the valley.



Above, Brett DeCesari and Helen McLaughlin volunteered at the museum for a weekend of guiding tours and doing chores around the museum. Helen cleaned inside the museum. Below, Brett trims the hedges in front of the museum.



right: Charlie (AMA '77) and Debbie Collins enjoyed looking through Bayonets and Recalls.



Richard Callaway, '69, from Guatemala, came to visit the AMA Museum with his mother, his wife, his daughters and his grandkids for the first time since 1969.



Randy Hollingsworth, '72, stopped by the museum in March



Art Hurme, '61, and his wife just stopped by the Museum to pay for their Reunion registration



Victor Gomez, '69 and his wife Evelyn are shown here with Don Studer. Victor is our most faithful volunteer. Since Ben's passing, Victor has committed to work at the museum every Wednesday for a very small stipend. He additionally volunteers at no compensation whenever he is needed, especially on the weekends when volunteers are lacking. Don lives in Arizona when he is not on the road touring America. He comes back to Virginia to help prepare for reunion and stays several months doing what ever is needed around the museum.



Notes from our readers and followers

Please thank B.J. for his letter inviting me to the 2018 reunion, but I will not be able to attend. I have reached the age that traveling has become more difficult. I graduated AMA in 1948 and attended NY University and returned to complete my graduated studies when I returned from serving in the US Army during the Korean War. I am a retired middle school principal and I have fond memories of my time spent at AMA. If any of my classmates attend, please them my best regards:



~ Former cadet Neil Lefkowitz.

bj, what a splendid piece!!!!!! The color is absolutely amazing ... great new tracks as well ... Thank you for stepping up to help Bob and then take over the helm.

my best
frank and bev Williamson

Find us on

Facebook is a great place for alumni to gather on-line to share memories, make new friends from among the alumni and share what's going on with you.

There are four Facebook groups for AMA Alumni and Friends sharing:

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY

www.facebook.com/groups/19704901495/

Amigos de Augusta Military Academy

www.facebook.com/groups/800196073414984/

AMA Legacy Preservation

www.facebook.com/groups/819548758105031/

Augusta Military Academy Friends

www.facebook.com/groups/AugustaMilitaryAcademy/

The museum also has a Facebook page where it shares the activities at the museum:

Augusta Military Academy Museum

www.facebook.com/AugustaMilitary/

A really interesting issue [Winter 2018]. Thank you for your long term efforts in keeping The Bayonet relevant for AMA alumni. ~ Robert Ash

B.J. d'Orsay, thanks for your email about the AMA Bayonet and reunion. Due to my health I am unable to travel. One of the highlights in my life was my year at AMA 1945. I was a drummer in the AMA band.

Good luck . ~ Jim hall

Best Bayonet ever! Going to take me a week to read it all! Thanks BJ!

~ Bill Scarborough, '69

Thank you BJ. As usual you have done a fine job with our periodical! Love the color pic format!

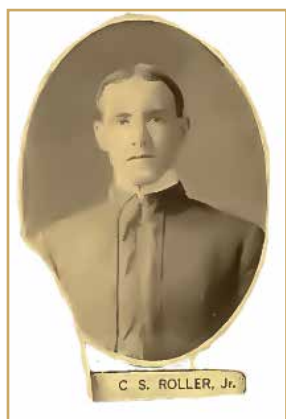
Best,
~ Doug Pennock

I was reminded of the movie Band of Brothers, every time I see one of us post something here [Facebook], even though most of us have been separated by many years we have managed to keep in touch through the posts, it does me good to see the love and loyalty we still have for this place. We are a band of brothers, still joined together by a common denominator, we will meet sometime though not having met in decades and become instant friends, best friends and old friends, I am proud to have been a cadet and a member of this Great School and a member of this BAND OF BROTHERS. We all are getting older, and many of us have passed on to that great place in the sky, where we will reunite sometime. I can't make it to the reunion, but I am extremely grateful and humbled to have been a part of Augusta. God bless all of you, and keep the faith! The Old Girl is still standing. Love you all.

~ Thomas Alan Bentley
March 29



Roller-Hudgins Endowed Scholarship



These senior photos of Roller and Hudgins are taken from *The Bomb*, VMI's yearbook of 1901.



The VMI Class of 1901 held their 50th Reunion in May of 1951. **Chas. S. Roller, Jr.** was given the label of "Most Exuberant" after hefting two of his classmates up off the sidewalk. In the photo, l. to r. are **Edward Ryland**, **Chas. S. Roller, Jr.**, and his good friend and fellow military school leader, **Morgan H. Hudgins**, Superintendent of Fishburne Military School from 1913-1952. Roller and his brother Tom assumed co-leadership positions at AMA in 1907 when the founder, Charles S. Roller died. Charles became sole Superintendent of AMA in 1946 upon the death of Tom.

Roller and Hudgins became close friends at VMI, and maintained that friendship their entire lives, as can be witnessed in the sometimes fierce but good-natured rivalry between the two schools. Their friendship continues to this day through the friendship and close association between the two school's alumni.

An endowed scholarship fund has been created at Fishburne by an AMA graduate to honor their friendship. It is the Roller-Hudgins Endowed Scholarship. When the fund reaches a value of \$25,000, scholarships will begin to be awarded from the earnings of the fund. The current value of the fund is approximately \$10,000.

If you would like to contribute to this lasting legacy of a friendship that goes back well over one hundred years, contact the Fishburne Alumni Center at Alumni@Fishburne.org or call (540) 946-7700 ext. 106.

This scholarship will be awarded to a legacy of an AMA graduate or other military school that has been closed. If none have applied, the scholarship would be awarded to a legacy of a Fishburne Military School graduate.

Once fully funded, this scholarship will be perpetual, as long as Fishburne is operating. It is another way for the AMA Legacy to continue long after the last alumnus has passed away.

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Jim "Rosie" Stillwagon, '67, dead at 68

The Columbus, Ohio newspaper said, "Ohio State has lost an all time great." And so did Augusta Military Academy.

James R. Stillwagon passed away on 3 February at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus after a heart attack, a week before his 69th birthday.

Jim played three sports at Mount Vernon High School in Columbus before three sterling years as AMA's best athlete in football, baseball, basketball, lacrosse, wrestling and the shot put. He then went to Ohio State where he played for Woody Hayes and was a member of the 1968 National Championship team.

Jim earned the first ever Lombardi Trophy as college football's top lineman in 1970 plus both the Outland Trophy and the Knute Rockne Award, attesting to his defensive prowess. He was a three year starter at Ohio State when freshmen were ineligible to play. In 1979, Jim was inducted into the Ohio State Hall of Fame and in 1991 he became a member of the National College Football Hall of Fame.

When Jim was about to graduate from AMA, the college scholarship offers began to pour in mainly from schools in the South but when Michigan State came after him the Big Ten schools got interested. Coach Hayes offered him a full scholarship to Ohio State and the rest, as they say, is history! Ohio State had an amazing 27-2 record during Jim's time on the team.

His classmate **Jackson Prentice** recalls that every night for a month, "the call would come over the loudspeaker for Cadet Stillwagon to take a phone call in the courtyard phone booth. These were college football coaches from all over the country trying to recruit Rosie including Bob Devaney at Nebraska, Ara Parseghian at Notre Dame, Bo Schembechler at Michigan, Darrell Royal at Texas, John McCay at USC, Joe Paterno at Penn State and Coach Hayes. He had 76 full scholarship offers!"

Colonel Livick remembers Jim as a "great athlete, a great cadet and a great Headquarters Company Captain. His brother, Tom, '62, convinced Jim to come to AMA. **Ed Clymore** and I went to Mount Vernon, Ohio when they celebrated 'Jim Stillwagon Day' at the end of Jim's days at Ohio State and Woody Hayes, Jack Tatum and other Ohio State greats were there."

First Captain Charlie Smith, '67, said, "Everything that

Jim did at AMA makes me smile... Jim's room was right above mine and I could hear him doing 150 pound neck curls every other night. But my best memory was when we played lacrosse and I was goalie. Jim was in the crease right in front of me and I still laugh about the other team coming straight at Jim. They had no idea what they were in for!"

Gordon Metz, '67, said it all: "Rosie Stillwagon was just bigger than life."

Of course, after he graduated from OSU the pros came calling. The 49ers drafted him, traded him to the Redskins who then traded him to Green Bay. As Jim said, "In those days, they still had slave labor in pro football. Once you signed with a team, they could pay you whatever they wanted and trade you anywhere and there was nothing you could do about it. Except to play in the Canadian Football League."

Which Jim did joining Joe Theismann at the Toronto Argonauts where he eventually became to co-captain of the team and was a perennial All Pro CFL player for his

entire five year career with the Argonauts. "Would I have preferred to play in the US? Of course, but it didn't work out that way."

When his football days ended, Jim worked for the jewelry company that manufactured Augusta's

class rings as well as rings for countless other schools and universities. After five years, he went into business for himself doing promotional and advertising. His Star Lock Systems manufactured high security locks for the vending machine industry and Gary Guard, Inc. marketed products for the utility industry.

At AMA, Jim was Captain of Headquarters Company and the 1968 Recall said, "As master of the Mess Hall, the troops toed the mark when Rosie was around." He was habitually on the Privilege List, was Honor Military and marched in the Roller Rifles. Jim was Captain of the football team and was both All Prep and All Military. He was chosen top athlete for two of his three years at Augusta and was Chairman of the first AMA Sports Hall of Fame Committee. He was inducted into the Hall in 2008, its first year. He was elected to *Ad Astra per Aspera* his senior year.

Jim is survived by his wife, Effie, three daughters, all graduates of Ohio State: Nicole, Angela and Electra, two grandchildren, and his brothers Woody and **Tommy, '62.**

In the waning minutes of the 1969 Rose Bowl sophomore middle guard Jim Stillwagon was the cover man on OJ Simpson who kept coming out of the backfield to take short passes, then break one tackle and make a big gain. But OJ never got away from Jim Stillwagon, play after play in the 4th quarter. Final score: Ohio State 26, USC 16.



Please report deaths and illnesses of AMA alumni, faculty and friends to the
AMA Museum
P. O. Box 101
Fort Defiance, VA 24437
540-248-3007
Museum@AMAalumni.org

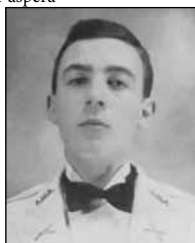
~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~ **Charles Watson Jordan, '42**

Charles Watson Jordan, Sr., 93, widower of Ruth (Epps) Jordan, of Fort Defiance, passed away Thursday, August 31, 2017 in Brookdale of Staunton.

Charles was born in Fort Defiance on October 10, 1923, a son of the late Claude Wilson and Violet (Watson) Jordan. He attended Augusta Military Academy as a member of the Class of 1942. AMA is located directly across Route 11 from his family residence. In his single year at AMA, Charles was a private in "B" Company, and played football and ran track.

Charles was an active member of the Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, a veteran of the United States Army Air Corps trained on B-17 and B-25 bombers, served during World War II, and retired from AT&T, where he was employed as an Engineering Supervisor. He enjoyed flying small aircraft, sailing, home improvement projects, and tinkering with and repairing various mechanical devices.

~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
**William E. Dawson, '43**  
February 2016



#### ~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~ **Col. Howard Ralph Guffey, '48**

Col. Howard Ralph Guffey, 87, husband of Jean (Darrah) Guffey of Staunton, died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018, at Avante at Waynesboro. He was born Dec. 3, 1930, in Rockbridge County, a son of the late Fadeley and Ada (Sandridge) Guffey.



Col. Guffey graduated from Augusta Military Academy and Davidson College. He received his master's degree from Shippensburg University.

He was drafted into the Army, where he served and completed Officer's Candidate School and was a commissioned officer in field artillery. He also completed Jump School to become a paratrooper. Howard served in the 11th Airborne Division, 82nd Airborne Division, and 1st Calvary Division during a tour in Vietnam. He also served in the 18th Airborne Corps. He attended the U.S. Army War College and was commander of the 212 Artillery Group. His last post was serving in the Department of the Inspector General of the Army. He retired with 33 years of service.

He was a co-founder of Military Professional Resources Inc. When he fully retired he located back to Staunton, where he was a lifelong member of Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and Distinguished Service Medal as well as other commendations.

While at AMA, Ralph was one of the local boys, from near Mount Sydney. Academically, he held his own against all. And he was a baseball fan without equal. Ralph was a private in "B" Company, on the Honor Roll and participated in baseball and basketball.

#### ~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~ **William Mark Deuber, '49**

William Mark Deuber of Devon, Pennsylvania passed away peacefully at home on February 26, 2018. Mr. Deuber was born on October 23, 1930, and is the son of Edward R and Katherine Deuber and brother of Robert Deuber and Anna Marie Evans.



After graduating from Bridgeton High School, Bill received an appointment to Augusta Military Academy and then on to the University of Pennsylvania. He received the prestigious Class of 1915 award at Penn for outstanding athlete, and was honored to be one of the legendary "Munger men." Upon graduation, Bill spent his 40 year professional career with Continental White Cap Corporation, and 63 years as an active member and "lefty" on Aronimink Golf Club's challenging course.

In 1954, Bill married his beloved Barbara Johnson, a fellow University of Pennsylvania graduate, and made the Main Line home for their 3 children, William Jr (Charlene), Kenneth, and Janet Peters (Todd). He cherished his two granddaughters, Kristin and Kathryn, and was present at swim meets and school occasions for decades. He



shared with them a zest for life including a love for sunshine, outdoors, times with family and friends, golf, and dancing. Bill looked forward to weekends at

Aronimink with his wife Barbara, sharing dinner and good times with friends at the piano bar following a great day on the golf course. Bill will be missed by all who knew him. His strength, resilience, humility, and drive will shine forever in our hearts.

While at AMA, William participated in Football, Baseball and Track. He was a Pvt. in "HQ" Co.

#### ~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~ **Richard D. Gibbs Jr. '50**

Richard "Dick" Gibbs Jr., 84, of Plantation, died on February 1, 2017. Dick was born in Richmond, VA, in 1932. He flew in the US Air Force for four years, and retired from the Coast Guard Reserves as a Lt. Commander He was a State Farm agent from 1961-2000. and was an active member of the Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club. Dick lived a full life, enjoying planes, boats and antique cars; he loved traveling, socializing, and time spent with his family. He will be remembered as a friend to everyone he met.



From the 1950 Recall, "Coming to us from

*Thomas Jefferson High, Dick has, in his one year here at AMA, made a surprising number of friends. In addition to being an excellent student, he is friendly and has a great deal of wit. He is quite the social hound, as his amount of mail will testify. We wish success to a boy who is bound to succeed."*

~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
William F. Wissler, '51

Feb. 26, 2018

Grottoes, VA

Bill was a four year cadet, on the honor roll, a Corporal in "D" Company and member of the Junior Literacy Society.



~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
**Benjamin Hansel, '53**

Ben Hansel II, of Salem, Virginia, passed away suddenly on Sunday May 20, 2018. Ben was born and raised in rural Highland County, Virginia. Ben attended the Augusta Military Academy; upon graduation, he then attended University of Virginia where he received a Bachelor's Degree.

In 1957, he was called to serve proudly in the United States Army as First Lieutenant in the Artillery Division. After serving, he went to Law School and graduated from Washington and Lee University School of Law with a Juris Doctor Degree. He was admitted to practice before the Virginia Supreme Court and the U. S. District Court for Western District of Virginia. He was a 2nd generation Attorney following in his father's footsteps. Ben was also was a member of the Virginia State bar from 1962 to 2010. He retired after 45 years of service in the legal department with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Senior Regional Counsel in Virginia. Ben was a High Degree Mason and Lifetime member of Highland Lodge No. 110 in Monterey, Virginia and a member of the Shriners in Roanoke.

When he was not working, he enjoyed woodworking making projects for his family, as well he even built his own cabin in Highland County. He was a man who enjoyed the outdoors with his family.

At a two year cadet at AMA, Ben finished as a Master Sgt. in "H-Q" Co., played varsity basketball, marched on the Roller rifles and was on the honor roll.



~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
John Verburb, '53

John Verburb, 81, of Montross, Tidwells area, passed away on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at his home. John was a U. S. Army veteran and a member of Cobham Park Baptist Church. He attended Augusta and Valley Forge Military Academies and Richmond Professional Institute (now VCU). John worked in the family motel business, as an insurance adjuster and later retired from property management. In retirement John enjoyed boating, fishing and model railroading. John was a member of The Mount Holly Fire Substation Committee. His wife and family were his greatest treasures.

John spent four years at AMA where he finished as Sgt. First Class in "A" Co. before transferring to Valley Forge Military Academy.



~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
**Lloyd M. Owens '60**

Ambrose Lloyd Owens, Jr., 74, of Tarboro, NC, died unexpectedly in a traffic accident on Sunday, July 9, 2017. He was born December 1, 1942, to the late Francina Worrell and Ambrose Lloyd Owens, Sr., and was raised in Plymouth, N.C. He graduated from Atlantic Christian College in 1967 with a degree in organ/church music and began a career teaching music at Tarboro High School.



He was well known as a talented musician, retiring as organist and choirmaster of Calvary Episcopal Church in 2012, and a successful businessman as long-time owner of

Braswell Distributing. He served on numerous boards and committees in his civic life and was especially proud of his membership in the Tarboro Rotary Club and being a Paul Harris Fellow. He was full of life and was a loving and devoted husband, father, brother, and PaPa. Lloyd spent three years at AMA in Band Company, where he was on the *Bayonet* staff and in the Cotillion Club

~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
Ben Zinkhan, '60

Benjamin Christian "Ben" Zinkhan, III, 76, widower of Joyce Ann (Robertson) Zinkhan of 1606 Ridgeway Drive, passed away Thursday, March 29, 2018 at his home surrounded by his loving family after a short battle with cancer.



Mr. Zinkhan was born on June 6, 1941 in Baltimore, Maryland, a son of the late Benjamin Christian, Jr. and Edith M. (Parson) Zinkhan.

Ben was a member of the Christ United Methodist Church, serving on several church committees, the Board of Trustees, ushering for the 8:30 a.m. Service and was active in the 4th of July stand and when they had Apple days. Mr. Zinkhan was a 1960 graduate of Augusta Military Academy, served in the 11th Air Assault Division as a SP4 of the United States Army with a tour of duty in Turkey, he attended V.P.I. and Dunsmore Business College. He retired from E.I DuPont with thirty-four years of service, the last twenty years was served in the Power House Department. Ben was a member of the AMA Alumni Association, on the Board of Directors, a tour guide, a dedicated volunteer for the Museum for several years. He cherished time with his family and enjoyed bass fishing with his cousin, Earl "Willie" Beall, Jr. and Bob Smith.

Honorary pallbearers were Don Studer, Matthew Goff, Thomas Langford, Willie Beall, Gary Granger, and Bob Smith.

See Zinkhan, page 5

~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
**Dennis Fancher, '63**

Dennis Fancher, 73, of Ocean Isle Beach was called to his eternal home on February 25, 2018 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington surrounded by family and friends. Dennis attended Vestal High School and was a graduate of Augusta Military Academy in Virginia, class of 1963, as a post graduate who wrestled.



He also attended Alfred Technical College

for HVAC and refrigeration and was a member of the free and accepted masons. As a New York transplant Dennis has served his community in many capacities; a volunteer firefighter on the Ocean Isle Beach Fire Department, worked with the Sea Turtle Patrol, served as the community watch coordinator for his street, and was always willing to help anyone in need. Semi-retired, Dennis obtained his real estate license and worked closely with his friend and mentor on the Sarah Harris Team, as well having served as the Vice President of Tri-County Mechanical.



While his birth name was Dennis, to his family, friends and community he was called Pop-Pop and was loved by all that knew him. He had a passion for history and recently shared his love by taking his grandchildren on a heritage trek to see their family roots in Pennsylvania and New York. When he wasn't working, Pop-Pop loved to spend time fishing, clamming or hunting, always with family.

~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
Thomas Hart, '65

Thomas Edwin Hart, 70, of Crimora, Virginia, passed away on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at AHC. He was born on February 26, 1948, in Queens, New York, the son of Edwin and Jean Reber Hart. Many cadets knew Tom's father, Ed Hart, as teacher at AMA.



Tom graduated from Augusta Military Academy and joined the Navy in 1968. The Navy trained and then assigned him to be a Mineman Specialist. He spent most of his tour of duty in Guam where he enjoyed snorkeling and scuba diving.

Upon discharge, Tom attended James Madison University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. He then worked for EDS, a Ross Perot company, as a Computer Specialist and then as a Programmer Troubleshooter, and Supervisor in South Carolina, San Francisco, and Florida. He then worked at Honeywell in Richmond, Va. before deciding it was time for a change and took to the road driving trucks OTR. Upon retirement from all his travels, he returned to his home in New Hope, Va.

later moving to Crimora to enjoy a slower, quieter life. Tom always had a knack for understanding the way things worked, be it electrical, automotive, plumbing, carpentry, etc. He could fix just about anything.

~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
**James R. Stillwagon, '67**

James R. Stillwagon, passed away on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Riverside Methodist Hospital, at the age of 68. Jim was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio on February 11, 1949 to the late Woodrow A. and Anna Lucci Stillwagon. Jim is survived by his wife, Effie; three daughters, Nicole, Angela and Electra; two grandchildren, James and Brianna; along with his brothers, Woody (Sally) and Tommy (Linda). He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and cousins.



Jim was athletic throughout his life. He played football, basketball and baseball in school in Mount Vernon and played football at Augusta Military Academy in Virginia. Jim played football at The Ohio State University for Coach Woody Hayes and was a member of the 1968 National Championship team. He has so many dear and caring teammates from his time at OSU who have become amazing and loving friends to Jim and Effie.

He earned the opportunity to play for the Toronto Argonauts for several years after playing football at Ohio State. Jim was honored with induction into both the National College Football Hall of Fame (1991) and selected to the All-Time Argonaut team in 2009. Jim was not only a great memorable football player. He was a husband, dad, grandpa, brother, uncle, friend, business man and philanthropist.

Jim would help anyone who needed help. He donated and cared for several organizations in the community like Central Ohio Diabetes Association, Unverferth House, Athens County families, Special Olympics and Children's Hospital to name just a few. Jim also was the founder of the Len Immke Swing for Diabetes Golf Outing. Most times, the help was given without any recognition. Jim had his local business, Stillwagon Enterprises, for over 30 years. Jim, Effie and Kim (Howell) have been inseparable running the company and helping the

local community. Jim had so many special people in his life. There are too many to list so please know how grateful Jim was and his family is for all of you. Jim McNamara and Randy Walker along with so many other wonderful people helped Jim continue to live his life to the fullest despite obstacles. Jim loved his family, loved telling stories and sharing what he has learned in his life. Jim was a passionate man who believed in being truthful, having integrity and doing what is right.

**See Stillwagon, page 38**

~~~~~ Ad astra per aspera ~~~~~  
Samuel Alexander Knox III, 70

Samuel Alexander Knox III, 70, of Wise, passed away Friday, April 20, 2018 at the Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport, Tenn. after extended illness. He was the Owner and Operator of Knox & Sons Oil Co. in Wise, a lifetime member of the Wise Rescue Squad, past member of the Wise Fire Department, a member

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Bricks are available in two sizes:

4" x 8" are \$50

8" x 8" are \$100

The bricks are placed in front of the museum on the AMA campus and are the property of AMA.

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<http://amaalumni.org/wp-content/uploads/paverOrderForm.pdf>



of the Wise Masonic Hoge Lodge #8 AF&AM, a Shriner and Jester of Jericho Temple, Shriner of Kerbela Temple and a member of the Wise Kiwanis Club.

Ad astra per aspera

Ed Longmire '68

Edward H. Longmire, 69, of Reidsville, NC, passed away on Wednesday, November 1st, 2017. Edward was born on September 5, 1948, in Blacksburg, VA. He attended Fort Defiance Military School and King's College of Charlotte.



He was an avid motorcyclist, owned a motorcycle shop and raced flat track bikes. He was a vintage music aficionado. He retired from the State of North Carolina Corrections Division. Edward was a master chef and food connoisseur, with a passion of sharing his love of cooking with others. He loved the Lord and was passionate about his commitment to his church and his community.

Ed attended AMA for 7 years, attaining the rank of Captain and Battalion Executive Officer his senior year. He marched on the Roller Rifles for four years, and was Commander his senior year. He also ran track. He was on the Honor Committee.

Ad astra per aspera

Frederic Michael Vischer, '68

Frederic passed away on January 13, 2018 peacefully at his home in Warminster, Pa from many years of COPD. Born on March 2, 1949, Michael was the beloved only child to Rose (Kakos) and Budd Vischer who preceded him in death. Michael was the loving husband of Dorothy (Shriver) Vischer. Their marriage was one of endless love and devotion. Together, Michael and Dorothy loved to travel and spend time with their sweet Dalmatian, Sierra.



He attended AMA for 3 years and was extremely proud of the time he spent there. Fred did two (2) tours in Vietnam and was in the Army Reserve for many years. He retired as Captain. As owner of his own business, Vischer Funeral Supplies for 35 years, he was very accomplished. Married to Dorothy S in 2003, his life was very fulfilled with her

and raising her two children, Jason and Janice. (Jason is serving in the US Army.) Frederic is sorely missed.

Ad astra per aspera

Gary Wayne Argenbright, '69

Gary Wayne Argenbright of Verona, Virginia, passed away May 2, 2018. Gary worked at Cadence and was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Gary attended AMA four years where he participated in Peep Football, was basketball manager and on the privilege list.

Ad astra per aspera

George Robin Harris, '70

George Robin Harris passed away in his home in Smithfield, Virginia on February 4, 2018. surrounded by his loving family and friends. He was 67 years old.



George was the son of the late George Henry Harris and Etta Odell Harris. He graduated from Augusta Military Academy at Fort Defiance, Virginia, as a Cadet Captain. He was a decorated Sergeant with the Portsmouth Police Department, retiring after twenty-nine years of service to the city. George was a Past Master of Portsmouth Midday Lodge No. 132 and Past Master of Smithfield Union Lodge No. 18 AF & AM. He was Past Patron of Tidal Wave Chapter No. 9 Portsmouth and Past Patron of Smithfield Chapter No. 127 Order of the Eastern Star. George was also a life member of Gosport Lodge No. 20 Fraternal Order of Police. He was a member of West End United Methodist Church.



During his six years at AMA, Robin participated in track and Karate. He was a member of the Roller Rifles and the Color Guard. He also made honor role and privilege list. He graduated Captain of "E" Company.

Ad astra per aspera

Willis Hargroves Walker, '71

Willis Walker, 68, passed away after a brief illness on Saturday, April 14, 2018 in Richmond, VA. He was born on August 18, 1949, in Portsmouth, to the late Lee Wood Walker, Jr. and Reed Hargroves Walker.

Willis graduated from Augusta Military Academy in 1971 and retired from Norfolk Naval Shipyard in 2008, after a 34-year career.



Willis attended AMA for nine years. He graduated as Master Sergeant on the Color Guard. He marched with the Roller Rifles for his last two years at AMA.

Ad astra per aspera

Robert Yancey '75

From Jim's brother, "Hi...my brother attended Augusta military academy...and had attended a few reunions...but I don't know who he kept in touch with...and he has now passed after battling Pancreatic cancer for over 2.5 years....but I wanted to let those who knew him know...James Robert Yancey 9/8/1956 to 8/22/2017. To be buried 9/6/2017 at Quantico National Cemetery With honors. Born in Bordeaux, France September 8, 1956. Named after my uncle James Robert Yancey a WWII Pilot shot down in battle. Rest In Peace my brother."



Ad astra per aspera

Arturo Escobar, '76

Arturo Jose Escobar was born on December 3, 1956 and passed away on March 4, 2018 in Pasadena, California.



During Founder's Day Ceremony, Chaplain Gordon Metz read the names of alumni who have passed away since last year's reunion.

"When you're handed a list of who passed last year, and put them all on one page, it's significant. Ladies and Gentlemen, you have a special place here, make the most of it. Go home and call those people who aren't here, and ask them if mowing the yard this weekend or playing golf is really where they needed to be. These 46 individuals would give anything to be here with you. It's an honor to name their names."



Charles Watson Jordan, '42
Frank Bane Vandegrift, '43
John Younger, '43
John Cofer Dashiell '44
Robert Anderson Wantz, '46
Samuel Wilson Harrell, '47
Geoffrey G. Layng, '47
Clarke Thomas Cooper, '48
John Robert Englehart, '48
Howard Ralph Guffey, '48
Richard Ruther, '48
Edward Lankford Allen, '49
Raymond H. Anderson, Jr., '49
William Mark Deuber, '49
Richard D. Gibbs, Jr., '50
Daniel F. Yellott, '51
Leroy D. Bowman, Jr., '53
Ozzie Ferro, '53
John Verburg, '53
John Jacob Whittington, Jr., '53
John T. Bell, '54
Michael Bottino, '54
Frank Crawford Suter, '54

Vic Knicely, '55
Alan Gould, '60
Lloyd M. Owens, '60
Benjamin Zinkhan, '60
Dennis A. Fancher, '63
John Arthur Hileman, '64
Ernest Winfield Kilton, '65
Thomas Liston, '65
Harold Clayton Sandifer, Jr., '65
Jim Stillwagon, '67
Edward Longmire, '68
Michael Vischer, '68
Robert Bruce Brothers III, '69
Joseph Ray Wenzel, '69
George Robin Harris, '70
Willis Hargroves Walker, '71
William L. Hamilton, '72
James Clark Hash, '72
Mitchell D. Clingempeel, '73
James Robert Yancey, '75
Arturo Jose Escobar, '76
George Donnelly, '81
Charles Duke Furrh, '83

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For Boundless Loyalty, Fierce Leadership And a Devoted Heart,

THE AMA ALUMNI FOUNDATION

Does officially Recognize and Commend

BLAINE CLARKE

'72

For serving Five Years as Chairman



Blaine Clarke, '72, received official recognition for his five years of service as Chairman of the AMA Foundation, a job no one else wanted or would take on. He was also awarded an AMA Medal.

During his tenure, Blaine and **Steve Trent** worked together to affirmed our lease agreement with the United Pentecostal Church through 2028.

The beginning of the volunteer docent program as a result of the passing of Sgt. Joe Josephson and the retirement of Sgt Don Studer was begun under Blaine's leadership.

Blaine instigated effective fundraising efforts eliminating the need to dip into our investment accounts for operating funds and brought his good friend and classmate Steve Traylor on board as treasurer and overall financial manager.

As our corporate entities and membership move forward, we believe Blaine's steady leadership through some arduous moments will prove to be the beginnings of what we will become as an organization, and define our mission in the preservation of the history of military secondary schools in the State of Virginia.

left, Ed Rogerville presents Blaine with a plaque similar to the facsimile above left and an AMA Medal, above.

